

LEG-5/4/02

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

OLL 85-1634/2
13 June 1985

The Honorable Ted Stevens
Chairman
Subcommittee on Defense
Senate Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I have had an opportunity to review your proposed polygraph amendment to the Fiscal Year 1985 Department of Defense (DoD) supplemental appropriation bill. This amendment would require DoD to conduct random polygraph examinations to assist in determining the eligibility of individuals for access to classified information. The amendment also provides that an agency determination concerning eligibility for access to classified information is committed to agency discretion and the agency's determination in this respect would be final.

The Agency has consistently supported wider use of the polygraph within the Intelligence Community in determining eligibility to classified information and I strongly support your proposed amendment which would permit such expanded use of this valuable security tool at DoD.

While we support the proposed amendment, we have several suggested clarifications for inclusion in the accompanying legislative history. First, we hope you would make clear in the accompanying legislative history that this amendment does not have the effect and is not intended to limit the authority of other agencies outside of DoD to conduct polygraph examinations. Next, that the Committee report on the amendment should reflect that decisions on access to classified information is entrusted to the sound discretion of the Secretaries.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this proposed amendment and look forward to working with you and members of your staff in seeking its enactment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "William J. Casey".
William J. Casey
Director of Central Intelligence

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